

## New Iraqi Army, 2-7 Cav. Strike Jackpot

By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel

122nd MPAD

AL-TARAMIYA, Iraq- It started out as routine air recon-

naissance, but then the Soldiers noticed something unusual in a field near the village of Al-Taramiya. Passing the grid

coordinates to ground forces of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, a patrol was sent out to investi-

gate. What they discovered turned out to be the largest weapons cache ever found by 2-7 Cav.

"After we found the initial weapons cache, we got the 1st Company, 2nd Battalion new Iraqi Army involved," Maj. Randall Wickman, 2-7 Cav. planning officer, said. "During the [Iraqi Army's] sweep of the area, they discovered patches of freshly packed dirt and began digging underneath it. What they found were a couple of metal boxes, 6 foot by 4 foot by 9 foot, with all sorts of munitions in [them]."

Wickman said after that discovery, 2-7 Cav. began joint operations to search the area.

"We began fanning out from the original site [and], we just kept finding more stuff," Wickman said. "The credit for finding all this goes to the new Iraqi Army, they've done the bulk of the searching and dig-



By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Keaton, battalion sergeant major, 2-7 Cav., 1st Cavalry Division, explains to a soldier of the 1st Company, 2nd Battalion, new Iraqi Army that he is holding brand new C-4 explosives. Much of the ordnance found in the recently-discovered cache was placed as recently as two weeks ago.**

## 1-21 FA Helps with Neighborhood's First Town Hall Meeting

By Spc. Andy Miller

122nd MPAD

AL SAIDIYAH, Baghdad, Iraq- Like in most Baghdad neighborhoods, the people of Al Saidiyah are represented by a neighborhood advisory council (NAC). This NAC works with 1st Battalion, 21st Regiment Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, to increase the quality of life in Al Saidiyah. After holding several council meetings, the NAC and 1-21 FA decided to call an open

forum town-hall meeting.

According to Capt. Michael Levy, the 1-21 FA civil affairs officer, it was time to give the community a taste of democracy, and a sense of ownership of their local NAC.

"After the transfer of authority [on June 30], it is their council and their voice in the government," Levy said.

Having an open public forum is a new concept to the people of Al Saidiyah. Previous meetings in the

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By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

**Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 2nd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment prepare site security at the district advisory council building in Al Rashid. The platoon helped provide security for the first Al Saidiyah neighborhood town hall meeting. Local leaders and residents were given a forum to voice their concerns over civic issues in the neighborhood.**



## Joint Effort Unearths Weapons Caches

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ging up of these caches.”

Soldiers with metal detectors formed a line and went ahead of the column searching for more stockpiles of weapons. Shortly after heading down the gravel and dirt paths, excited calls for a shovel were echoed down the line from Soldier to Soldier. Another cache had been discovered.

“My soldiers have done a wonderful job,” said commander of the 1st Company, 2nd Battalion, Iraqi Army whose name is being withheld for security purposes. “They’ve been working very hard and have spent a lot of time out in the hot sun. We do this for the people of Iraq, so that they can be safe and free.”

The Soldiers found 17 multiple rocket launcher-type rockets, three Surface-to-Air missiles, 1,600 pounds of plastic explosives, three Tube-launched, Optically-Tracked, Wire-Guided (TOW) Missiles, 2,000 pounds of powder explosives, and various improvised explosive device-making materials.

As the search continues, more and more armaments are being pulled from the earth.

“We’ve definitely got a multiple-day mission here,” said Command Sgt. Maj.

Thomas Keaton, battalion sergeant major of 2-7 Cav. “We just can’t possibly get everything out of here and search the entire area in just one day.”

Wickman said that while some of the ordinance is older and was probably buried up to a year ago, some of the items found were buried within the last two weeks. Some of the missiles found are similar to those fired at Camp Cooke recently.

“I can’t be 100 percent sure that the missiles we’ve found are the same ones that have been launched at Camp Cooke, but they are similar in manufacture and type,” Wickman said.

Wickman said there was at least five days worth of work to be done to inventory all of the munitions.

“Once we get all this stuff trucked out of here we’ll be turning it over to [an explosive ordnance disposal team] for cataloguing and disposal,” he said.

With the stockpile loaded for the day, the final truck pulled out for the trip back to Camp Cooke.

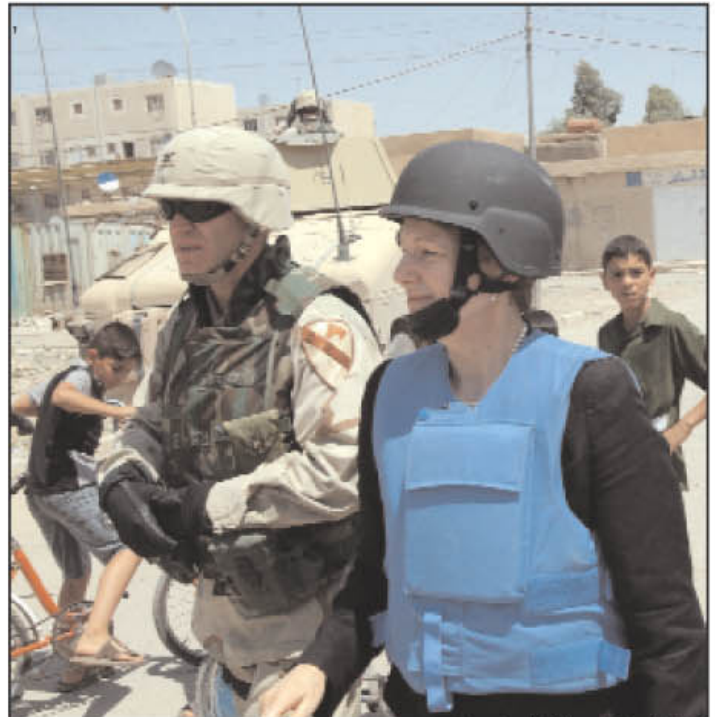
“It’s a really good thing we found all this,” Wickman said. “This should make it a lot harder for the bad guys.”

**Toby Keith**

with Special Guest Ted Nugent

**Saturday June 5 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.**

**PX North Gazebo**



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD

**World Health Organization envoy Baroness Emma Nicholson of Winterbourne (UK) talks with Col. Stephen Lanza, the 5th Brigade Combat Team commander, 1st Cavalry Division, at a proposed medical facility site in the Al Rashid district of Baghdad May 17. Nicholson visited several planned or under-construction medical sites in Al Rashid during the course of the day. During her visit, Nicholson represented the Assisting Marsh Arabs and Refugees (AMAR) International Charitable Foundation. A future relationship between AMAR, the First Team and the Al Rashid governing council is under consideration.**

## Iraqi Word of the Day

Friday al-jum-aah

### Baghdad, Iraq

#### Friday

High: 103  
Low: 74



#### Saturday

High: 105  
Low: 76



#### Sunday

High: 106  
Low: 79



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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## Random Meteor Turns Northwest Sky From Night to Day

► From AP

SEATTLE- A meteor about the size of a computer monitor flashed across the Northwest sky early Thursday, setting off booms that stunned witnesses.

"There was some question as to whether it was a piece of space junk burning up, but it was not," said Geoff Chester, a spokesman for the Naval

Observatory in Washington, D.C. "As far as I've been able to figure out, it was simply a rock falling out of the sky, as they are wont to do on occasion."

Chester said it was a type of meteor called a bolide, one that appears like a fireball in the sky, and was about the size of a small piece of luggage or a computer monitor.

Nothing unusual was detected on National Weather Service radar, and authorities also ruled out aircraft problems or military flight tests.

Toby Smith, a University of Washington astronomy lecturer who specializes in meteorites, said the skybursts were reported over a wide area around 2:40 a.m.

Witnesses along a 60-mile

swath of the Puget Sound region from the Tacoma area to Whidbey Island and as far as 260 miles to the east said the sky lit up brilliantly, and many reported booms as if from one or more explosions.

"It made a pretty big bang," said Petty Officer Andrew Davis at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, 40 miles north of Seattle.

## 1-21 FA Helps Facilitate Neighborhood Advisory Council Meeting

**Continued from Page 1** neighborhood have revolved around the tribal and religious leadership who represent the people.

"This was open to everybody across the board, regardless of social status, or what they do," said 2nd Lt. Justin Richardson, the 2nd Platoon leader for Alpha Battery, 1-21 FA. "It was well publicized and well advertised within Al Saiidiyah."

Having a publicly open

meeting, and advertising it heavily, created the need for extra security precautions, according to Richardson. So the 1-21 FA brought extra troops along. The First Team troops however, remained low-key, while the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) soldiers and Facility Protection Service (FPS) personnel announced their presence at the site.

"I think it makes the Iraqis feel a little more comfortable when they come," Richardson said. "They see more of the Iraqi people, instead of 10 U.S. Soldiers at the gate searching them. It provides a more comfortable situation for the Iraqi people to actually interact with their own people."

Securing the area, and making the people comfortable, set the stage for the meeting that took place inside the Al Rashid district council center. Along with coalition representatives and the NAC, more than 70 people attended the meeting. This was a successful first attempt, Richardson said.

"This success will bring more [attendees] in the future, and give more of the people of Al Saiidiyah a chance to come up and talk," Richardson said. "Hopefully it will set the standard for future [meetings]."

Capt. Thomas Pugsley, the 1-21 FA Alpha battery commander, said he wasn't as concerned with the turnout, as he was with getting the people of Al Saiidiyah to work together.

Pugsley's role at the meeting, as the coalition representative for the area, was to facilitate communication between the different groups in attendance. Groups present at this first town hall meeting beside the NAC, included local religious leaders, local tribal leaders, and random citizens of Al Saiidiyah.

Concerns and questions were voiced about local problems with squatters, electricity and police services.

At these meetings, Pugsley tries to ensure the meeting's dialogue is focused on the NAC, rather than him.

"About halfway through

the meeting the questions started getting directed toward us, but what I didn't want to do is cut people off," Pugsley said. "I'm going to try to figure out a way not to allow that next time;

because it doesn't reinforce what I'm trying to reinforce, which is empowerment of the NAC."

With the June 30 transfer of authority only five weeks away, empowering the NAC helps the Iraqis govern themselves. NAC members are voted into their positions on a local ballot, and are considered official representatives of the people.

"You can have a group of people that you say represents the people," Pugsley said. "But until

you put those individuals in front of the people, you don't really know if they do represent the people."

**"This success will bring more [attendees] in the future, and give more of the people of Al Saiidiyah a chance to come up and talk."**

**-2LT Justin Richardson, 2nd Platoon Leader, A Battery, 1-21 FA**



By Spc. Andy Miller, 122nd MPAD  
**Capt. Thomas Pugsley, the commander of Alpha battery, 1-21 FA, meets with local Sheiks, Imams and neighborhood advisory council representatives at a town hall meeting that took place for the Al Saiidiyah neighborhood of Al Rashid, Baghdad. About 70 people showed up for the first meeting in Al Saiidiyah. Next month a transfer of authority will give political authority to the Iraqi people.**



## Torch to Start Journey From Sydney to Athens

► From *USA Today*

SYDNEY- The Olympic torch relay was already a global game of can-you-top-this.

Now, Athens organizers have raised the stakes. Don't bet against an Olympic torch relay someday including a stop on the moon.

Consider that the flame, starting Friday, will kayak in Sydney, bicycle in Beijing and ride elephants in New Delhi and camels in Cairo — in less than a week. The \$45 million operation will include advance teams, entourages and plans for alternate airports so that even bad weather won't ground Zeus, the jet that will carry the flame on otherwise nonsmoking flights.

It will be an unprecedented stunt. Steve McCarthy, founder of Alem International, the Louisville, Colo., firm overseeing the relay, has flown more than 311,000 miles in the past year making preparations. "Some people say this is kind of nutty," says McCarthy. "But this is Athens' way of letting them be part of the Olympics."

The torch relay didn't begin with such ambitions. It was introduced by Nazi propagandists for the 1936 Berlin Games, traveling 12 kilometers over 12 days.

It was the 2000 Games in Sydney that turned the torch relay into a 21st-century extravaganza and set new endurance records: 41,000 miles over 117 days.



**Olympic gold medalist Cathy Freeman, who sparked the cauldron to mark the opening of the Sydney 2000 Olympics, will be the first to carry the torch, when the Australian leg of the relay starts at the Sydney Opera House on Friday.**



AFP

**Athens organizer Marton Simitsek lights the flame a day before its world tour starts.**

Sydney torch manager Di Henry, who arranged for a scuba diver to take the torch underwater at Australia's Great Barrier Reef, said in 2000 she didn't expect to ever be trumped: "This is about as big as (a torch relay) is going to get!"

The Athens' relay only will skip one continent, Antarctica, and travel more than 80,000 kilometers in the air. The overseas leg will include 33 cities in 35 days before returning to Greece. The torch caravan will travel about 30 miles daily. About 11,000 torchbearers each will run about 400 meters and get the option of buying their own torch.

## Today in History

### June 4

► From [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)

**1876 Express train crosses the nation in 83 hours**  
**1940 The evacuation of Allied forces from Dunkirk on the Belgian coast ends as German forces capture the beach port**  
**1942 The Battle of Midway begins**  
**1947 Miracle on 34th Street premieres**  
**1989 Tiananmen Square (Beijing) massacre takes place**

## Today in Cav History

### June 4

**1951 - New objective was the Line Wyoming extending from six to eleven miles north of Line Kansas.**



## NHL

### STANLEY CUP FINALS (Best of 7 series)

Calgary 3 (OT)  
 Tampa Bay 2  
 (Series tied 2-2)



## MLB

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Kansas City 9  
 Detroit 6

New York 5  
 Baltimore 2

Tampa Bay 5  
 Minnesota 2

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 4  
 Pittsburgh 2

New York 4  
 Florida 1

Atlanta 8  
 Philadelphia 4

## TV GUIDE

	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Ozzy & Drix/ As Told By Ginger	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	ESPNews/ Totally NASCAR	The X-Files
7 p.m.	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNews/ Headline News	Dumb and Dumber	Baseball Tonight/ SportsCenter	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Malcolm in the Middle	The Mask 9:45 p.m.	French Open Tennis - Men's Semifinals	The Dead Zone
10 p.m.	The Apprentice			Boston Public